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THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON METROPOLITAN TORONTO

S U B M I T T E D B Y

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

O F

THE TOWN OF WESTON

EDWIN F. AULT,

CHAIRMAN

March 12, 1964.

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The Weston Board of Education is pleased to submit the following brief for consideration in respect to the present structure of school administration in Metropolitan Toronto.

The Educational System in Metropolitan Toronto Functions Successfully.

At the outset, we would state that, in the opinion of the Weston Board of Education, the Metropolitan School Board as established by Bill 80 has since January 1st, 1954, functioned very successfully. It is indicative of the fairness with which the larger Boards have dealt with the total area needs that our Board, being one of the smaller educational units, is after nine years still pleased with the treatment and consideration our interests have received. Truly the existing metropolitan concept has proved that the democratic system of government, operating on a federated basis, can meet the challenges of our changing times.

In support of the above statements, we submit the following:-

1. Students attend available school facilities closest to their homes:

- Weston Senior Public School (Gr. 7 & 8) with rated capacity of 425 students has at December, 1963, 146 students from North York and 261 from Weston.
- Weston Collegiate and Vocational School (a composite school providing academic, commercial and technical courses) with rated capacity of 1,350 students has at December, 1963, 985 students from North York and Etobicoke and 561 from Weston. The Registered Nursing

Assistants' Course at Weston Collegiate and Vocational School, being the only such course in the Metropolitan area, has students from Leaside, Scarborough and Toronto as well as from centres such as Orillia and Barrie.

2. Necessary building replacements and additions required since 1953 by the Weston system which have been added to date are:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>PARTICULARS</u>
1954	Senior Public	Three Classrooms
1956	Memorial Public	Six Classrooms
1957	King St. Public	11 room school with auditorium replacement
1959	W. C. & V. S.	Science Laboratory
1960	Senior Public	Auditorium added
1961	W. C. & V.S.	Electronic Lab. (Federal-Provincial)

3. To ensure that co-operation and understanding is maintained with the neighbouring Boards who have students from their municipalities in the Weston permanent attendance area and that the interests of the parents of such students are represented, the Weston Board has "guest members" (non-voting) from each of the municipalities of North York and Etobicoke, appointed with the approval of their respective Boards, who are active in all phases of our Board and Committee work.

4. Provision has been made for providing education to "special" students (those unable to take the regular Senior elementary course) from the Weston system at Frank Oke School located in York Township and Kingsmill School in Etobicoke. Children are also transported to the Metropolitan School Board special classes for sight saving, hard of hearing, School for the Deaf, Aphasic and Sunnyview School.
5. The Metro Advisory Committee, consisting of Area Boards' Officials, has proved to be a most valuable pool of knowledge and experience from varied backgrounds which would be impossible to achieve in one standard system.
6. The maintenance assistance payments scheme is an equitable method of equalizing educational costs which fall most heavily on municipalities with a high proportion of residential assessment. It must be recognized that these municipalities provide the homes for people who are employed in industry and commerce located in other municipalities.

High Quality of Education Achieved by a Small System

The primary concern of any Board of Education is the quality of education provided throughout its school system. In this respect our Board is particularly proud of the educational standards achieved in Weston. Although it is impossible to actually compare such intangibles with other areas, some of the factors which we feel are worth noting to indicate the high standards and continual striving for excellence by the teaching staff, and Board in Weston, are:

1. A comparison of Weston Collegiate and Vocational School Grade 13 results to the provincial average for the period 1952 - 1963 on the basis of papers passed to papers written is:- Weston - 84.47% Province - 81.63%
2. Weston maintains a staff of experienced teachers (in 1962 the Secondary School staff had served an average of 13 years in the Weston School) and as evidence of the high caliber of our staff we refer to the positions now held in the teaching profession by some of our recent staff members:
 - Superintendent of Secondary Schools - Etobicoke Township
 - Business Director - Lakeshore Board of Education
 - Inspector - Ontario Department of Education
 - Secondary School Principals - Etobicoke Township,
Newmarket and West Lorne
 - Elementary School Principal - Toronto Township
 - Masters - Ontario Teachers' College (2)
3. Educational leadership given by the Weston system:-
 - initiated Tri-level educational system in Metro with a SENIOR PUBLIC SCHOOL erected in 1948, this school now provides occupational training such as typing.
 - First Registered Nursing Assistants' Course in Metro (1960)
 - First Metro area school system to conduct parent interviews by inviting parents to the school to have an interview with the teacher during the regular teaching day.
 - Organized the first adult education programme in the suburban area (1923)
 - Conducts the only secondary school driver training programme in Metropolitan area (1956)

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- Established 1 or 2 year occupational course in the secondary school for transferees (non-graduates) from elementary schools (1960)
- A former Weston trustee, Dr. F. D. Cruickshank, initiated the formation of the Ontario Associated Secondary School Boards organization, one of the seven Trustee Associations in Ontario and the founder of the Trustees' Council

4. Education in Weston is abreast of the times:

- oral french instruction now being given in Grade 4 of the elementary schools and as of September, 1964, will be extended to include Grades 5, 6, 7 and 8.
- special instruction by private consultants is provided for students suffering from speech defects.
- a student guidance programme is provided in the Senior Public School.
- Music supervision is provided in all elementary schools.
- Elementary schools provided with qualified librarians.

5. Teaching Aids Programme:

An example of the way in which schools can benefit from the easier communication between classroom teachers and members of the Board has been well illustrated by the development in Weston of a teaching aids programme. In 1959 there was no formal provision by the Board of such aids, and only isolated interest in them on the part of the teachers. One teacher in the Collegiate, however, had been experimenting in this area. When he requested permission to attend a meeting of the professional organization

in the field, the Chairman of the Advisory Vocational Committee of the Board volunteered to accompany him. Together they searched for ideas of value to Weston schools and, after their return, the partnership continued to function. The teacher showed how some of these new devices and techniques could be incorporated into existing teaching methods and his teammate, by interpreting these innovations to his colleagues on the Board, helped to obtain budget provision for them. Through countless instances of close personal co-operation of this nature, the Board and this teacher have developed a teaching aids programme in Weston which has not only been an outstanding example to other Boards in the Province, but has also been characterized by an atmosphere of partnership between Board and Staff for improvement. This, in turn, has fostered educational experimentation and professional self-development.

It is submitted that an essential element in this development has been, and is, the mutual understanding that results from frequent personal contacts which are possible in a comparatively small school system.

Economy of Operation

The cost of education and value for the educational tax dollar must be a matter of prime importance in the operation of any school board - large or small. The Weston taxpayers have been fortunate in obtaining first rate educational facilities and instruction at a reasonable cost for many years. In building and equipping schools and classrooms a realistic approach has been made to obtain the very best at a sensible cost.

The following is a summary of Weston building and operating costs and policies:

1. Weston has always built modern, functional schools within the Provincial Grant structure.
 - secondary classrooms at up to a maximum cost of \$25,000.00 per room
 - elementary classrooms at up to a maximum cost of \$20,000.00 per room
2. Total school Debenture Debt for the Town of Weston, as of December 31st, 1963, is \$51,735.32.
3. Per pupil day cost of Weston education since 1957, over and above the basic maintenance assistance payments:

<u>1 9 5 7</u>	<u>ELEMENTARY</u>	<u>ACADEMIC</u>	<u>COMMERCIAL</u>	<u>TECHNICAL</u>
Etobicoke	.37	.54	.76	1.58
North York	.56	.88	1.09	1.76
Toronto	.75	1.45	1.26	1.71
Weston	.33	.11	.19	.82
<u>1 9 5 8</u>				
Etobicoke	.32	.59	.69	1.61
North York	.44	1.02	1.32	1.95
Toronto	.74	1.31	1.33	1.80
Weston	.37	.15	.26	.99
<u>1 9 5 9</u>				
Etobicoke	.42	.95	1.17	1.84
North York	.59	1.45	1.73	2.41
Toronto	.90	1.37	1.31	2.12
Weston	.41	.36	.60	1.00
<u>1 9 6 0</u>				
Etobicoke	.56	1.17	1.55	2.19
North York	.77	1.60	2.12	3.50
Toronto	1.20	2.11	1.82	2.31
Weston	.57	.54	.93	1.09

<u>1 9 6 1</u>	<u>ELEMENTARY</u>	<u>ACADEMIC</u>	<u>COMMERCIAL</u>	<u>TECHNICAL</u>
Etobicoke	.68	1.26	1.64	2.12
North York	.86	1.65	2.08	2.15
Toronto	1.25	1.92	1.92	2.29
Weston	.63	.71	1.40	.75

<u>1 9 6 2</u>				
Etobicoke	.69	1.15	1.43	2.03
North York	.80	1.36	1.78	1.99
Toronto	1.30	1.81	1.58	2.23
Weston	.61	.50	.98	.43

The above tabulation of costs indicates the comparative position of the Weston system with neighbouring boards and bears careful consideration by those concerned with the economics of education.

4. Breakdown of comparative educational costs:

	<u>Toronto - 1962</u>	<u>Weston - 1962</u>
INSTRUCTION	55.6%	74.2%
OPERATION	10.1%	10.0%
MAINTENANCE	10.2%	7.7%
ADMINISTRATION	6.4%	4.6%
CAPITAL	17.7%	3.5%
	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

Metropolitan Toronto Education in the Future

The Weston Board of Education supports the existing powers of the Metropolitan School Board but suggests certain revisions are warranted at this time to achieve the full intent of the original legislation. These corrective measures would bring up to date and strengthen the fine "Metro" concept without disrupting the many advantages now enjoyed by all municipalities.

It is our opinion that the Metropolitan School Board should:-

1. Have a system of weighted voting by municipalities.
2. Have power to control and provide all the funds spent on the construction of new buildings and additions, as well as the replacement or major renovations of old buildings so as to equalize educational facilities.
3. Establish a common teacher salary schedule for all Area Boards.
4. Co-ordinate and direct adult education, including government re-training and post Grade 13 courses.

This opportunity to make a submission to the Commission is greatly appreciated and the Members of the Weston Board extend a cordial invitation to the Commissioner to visit the Weston School system at any time.

E. F. Ault, Chairman

